WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A call processing method, comprising the steps of:

    operating a telephone switch to detect receipt of an incoming telephone call on a subscriber telephone line;

    in response to detecting an incoming telephone call on the subscriber telephone line, operating the telephone switch to transmit a message to a service control point indicating receipt of a call on the subscriber telephone line;

    operating the service control point to transmit a message to a first computer in response to the message transmitted by said telephone switch; and

    operating the first computer to select a first party to service the incoming call.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    operating the first computer to determine the availability of the first party to service the incoming call by contacting a second computer, the second computer being associated with the first party.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the second computer is coupled to a first telephone device by a communications link which supports computer and telephone interaction, the step of operating the first computer to determine the availability of the first party including:

6   obtaining telephone device status information
7   from the second computer.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2   operating the first computer to send call
3   related information to the second computer.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2   operating the first computer to send a first
3   telephone number corresponding to the first telephone
4   device to the service control point; and
5   operating the service control point to instruct
6   the telephone switch to complete the incoming call using
7   the first telephone number as the destination telephone
8   number.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the first telephone
2   number is different from a telephone number used to route
3   the incoming call to said subscriber telephone line.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2   operating the first computer to determine from
3   a second computer if a telephone line associated with the
4   first party is busy.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein determining from the
2   second computer if the telephone line is busy includes
3   using a telephone application programming interface to
4   obtain telephone line status information.

1   9.   The method of claim 7, further comprising:

2   in response to detecting that said telephone

3   line is busy:

4   controlling the second computer to display a

5   plurality of call disposition options; and

6   operating the first computer to receive call

7   disposition selection information from the second

8   computer system.

1   10.   The method of claim 9, wherein the received call

2   disposition information includes a telephone number to

3   which the incoming call should be completed, the method

4   further comprising the step of:

5   transmitting the received telephone number to

6   the service control point.

1   11.   The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2   operating the service control point to transmit

3   the received telephone number to the telephone switch;

4   and

5   operating the telephone switch to complete the

6   call to the telephone line corresponding to the received

7   telephone number.

1   12.   The method of claim 11, the method further

2   comprising:

3   transmitting call related data to a third

4   computer, the third computer being associated with a

5   party to whom the received telephone number corresponds.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the received call disposition information includes a telephone number, the method further comprising:

    operating the first computer to use the received telephone number to identify a third computer; and

    transmitting to the third computer call related data.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

    transmitting the received telephone number to the service control point;

    operating the service control point to transmit the received telephone number to the telephone switch; and

    operating the telephone switch to complete the call to the telephone line corresponding to the received telephone number.

15. A communications system comprising:

    a telephone switch including trigger circuitry for detecting calls to a first telephone line on which a trigger is set, a first telephone number being associated with the first telephone line;

    a first subscriber telephone device coupled to the telephone switch by the first telephone line;

    a first computer coupled to the first subscriber telephone device by a communications link which supports the transmission of TAPI signals between

11   the first computer and the first subscriber telephone

12   device; and

13   a second computer system coupled to the

14   telephone switch and to the first computer, the second

15   computer including a routine for determining, as a

16   function of telephone line status information obtained

17   from the first computer, a telephone number to be used to

18   complete the routing of calls to the first telephone line

19   which are detected by said trigger circuitry.

1   16.   The system of claim 15, further comprising:

2   a service control point for coupling the

3   telephone switch to the second computer system.

1   17.   The system of claim 15, where said trigger circuitry

2   is terminating attempt trigger circuitry.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, further comprising:

2   a first Internet Protocol based computer

3   network for coupling the first computer to the second

4   computer.

1   19.   The system of claim 18, further comprising:

2   a second Internet Protocol based computer

3   network for coupling the second computer to the service

4   control point; and

5   wherein the second computer system includes a

6   routine for controlling the transmission of call related

7   data to the first computer system over said first

8   Internet Protocol based computer network.

1   20. The system of claim 19, further comprising;

2   a signaling system seven communications link

3   for coupling the service control point to said telephone

4   switch.

1   21. A communications method, comprising:

2   operating a first computer to contact a second

3   computer to determine the status of a telephone line

4   coupled to the second computer system; and

5   performing a call routing operation as a

6   function of the determined status of the telephone line

7   coupled to the second computer system.

1   22. The method of claim 21, wherein performing a call

2   routing operation includes:

3   operating the first computer to supply a

4   telephone number to a service control point; and

5   routing an incoming call to a telephone line

6   identified by said telephone number.

1   23. The method of claim 22, wherein routing an incoming

2   call includes:

3   operating the service control point to send a

4   message to a telephone switch to route the incoming call

5   using said telephone number.

1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising, prior to
2 operating the first computer to contact the second
3 computer:
4   triggering, in response to said incoming call,
5 a terminating attempt trigger set on a first telephone
6 service subscriber line corresponding to a service
7 subscriber telephone number; and
8   contacting the service control point for call
9 processing instructions in response to triggering of the
10 terminating attempt trigger.

1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising, prior to
2 operating the first computer to contact the second
3 computer:
4   operating the service control point to transmit
5 a message including the service subscriber telephone
6 number to the first computer; and
7   operating the first computer to select a party
8 to service said incoming call.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the step of
2 operating the first computer to supply a telephone number
3 to a service control point includes:
4   selecting as said telephone number to be
5 supplied to the service control point, a telephone number
6 corresponding to the party selected to service said
7 incoming call.